

## Region 6 Helps Region 9 During Yutu Typhoon and California Wildfires

At the request of Region 9, Region 6 deployed staff to assist with the EPA's responses to Typhoon Yutu in Saipan and the November 2018 California Wildfires.

On October 24, 2018 Typhoon Yutu made landfall on the islands of Saipan and Tinian of the Northern Mariana Islands. Typhoon Yutu was the strongest storm to impact a U.S. Territory, with wind gusts of over 180 miles per hour. Approximately 3,500 people live on Tinian; while the population of Saipan is 48,220 (2010 census). A Presidential Disaster Declaration was made on October 24, 2018. U.S. EPA Region 9 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 10 was activated on October 24, 2018 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Stafford Act. Since November 18, 2018, Althea Foster (6SF) has been serving as the Liaison Officer at the Joint Field Office in Saipan ensuring proper coordination with FEMA, and the local stakeholders is maintained to provide for completion of all of the tasks EPA is undertaking. Althea will return on December 8, 2018.

The Camp and Woolsey Fires continue to impact the California counties of Butte, Ventura, and Los Angeles. The California Governor declared states of emergency for Butte, Los Angeles and Ventura counties. The President issued a federal disaster declaration on November 13, 2018. Recent rains have helped firefighters; both fires are 100% contained. The Camp and Woolsey fires have had a devastating impact in the affected counties with thousands of displaced people, a total of 88 fatalities and the Town of Paradise, Butte County, CA largely destroyed. Kayla Buchanan (6EN), David Eppler (6SF), and Justin McDowell (6EN) have been in California helping Region 9 establish their Incident Command Post, developing Safety Plans, and establishing the reporting tools and battle rhythm the response will use in reporting their daily progress in addressing the Household Hazardous Waste in Paradise, California. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with assistance from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control will begin to assess and remove household hazardous waste from burned properties in the Town of Paradise and Butte County as part of the interagency response to the Camp Fire. Region 6 will continue to support this response in 2019.



David Eppler is serving as the Assistant Safety Officer in California, pictured with a Safety Officer from Region 9.



Saipan-Debris in the water from Typhoon Yutu.



Kayla Buchanan is serving as Situation Unit Leader and Justin McDowell is serving as the Planning Section Chief at the Incident Command Post in Chico, CA.

## Region 6 Gears of Government Award Recipients



L-R: Dwayne Patrick, Ashley Howard, Margaret Osbourne, Craig Carroll.

Congratulations to the recipients of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's fiscal year 2019, quarter 1, Gears of Government Awards (GoG). Recently launched by the White House Office of Management and Budget, the GoG Awards recognize federal employees and teams for their exceptional contributions to improving the performance of their organizations through outstanding mission results, customer service, and accountable stewardship. EPA is the first agency to make GoG Awards selections.

Award recipients were formally announced during the EPA Lean Management Summit 2018 in Region 6. Henry Darwin plans to also personally present award recipients with their awards during a formal GoG Awards Ceremony to be held at EPA headquarters during January 2019.

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## EPA Begins Removal Action in Fannin County, TX

EPA OSCs, Paige Delgado and Gary Moore, along with EPA contractors mobilized to the F.J. Doyle site to initiate a polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) removal action recently. To date, the EPA team has demolished the process building and concrete slab/containment; excavated contaminated soil from 21 grids at residential properties, and transported 653 tons of PCBs-contaminated soil for off-site disposal. Site control measures are also in place at the site to protect the workers, the environment and the public including: temporary fencing, surface water erosion controls, and air monitoring. The EPA OSCs continue to coordinate with local and State representatives and have an extraordinary relationship with the Leonard Community. The removal action is ongoing and is estimated for completion in early 2019.



Soil being removed at the site.

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## New Building Update



Construction continues at Renaissance Tower. This week, workers are in the latter stages of finish-out on the 5th and 8th floors. Audio-Visual, and IT component installations are nearing completion, with acoustic ceiling tiles and carpeting next in line. Furniture for these floors is scheduled for delivery before the end of December.



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